

The Leopard Seal in Western Australia.—When reporting the occurrence of a Leopard Seal (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) near Doubtful Island Bay in October 1948 (*Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, 1948, p. 155), I mentioned that this appeared to be the first record of the species for the State. However it has been ascertained that the Western Australian Museum received a specimen from Busselton in 1905.

What is the third recorded occurrence is of an animal which was found stranded at City Beach on August 24, 1949. It was taken to the Zoological Gardens, South Perth, where it remained on exhibition until its death on October 3. It was in an emaciated condition at the zoo when it was received. In the preliminary feeding experiments it was found that it would greedily accept Grey Teal, but its main diet later was rabbit and horsemeat.

The specimen has been preserved at the Western Australian Museum. It proved to be a male.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Black-tailed Godwit at Pelican Point.—My only previous records of the Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) from the Swan River estuary were made at Pelican Point in 1936 (3 birds on January 12, 5 on March 19 and April 5) and, since I resumed observations here in April, 1946, I have not logged the species until the present season.

On February 26, 1950 I saw three godwits feeding almost to belly level and plunging their heads deep into the water. What attracted my attention at once were their straight beaks. The Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) is not infrequently seen at the Point but none was present on this day. On being flushed the birds showed the diagnostic field marks—white tail contrasting with the black tip, broad white wing stripe and long trailing legs. A suggestion of the black tail tip can be glimpsed under the folded wings whilst the birds are on the ground. After wheeling around they soon settled again on the Point and resumed their feeding.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Black-tailed Godwit at Peel Inlet.—The Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) is one of the rarer waders visiting the South-west and it has not, apparently, been previously reported from further south than the Swan River estuary. On December 29, 1949 I was out fishing for whiting in Peel Inlet and when coming in had to pull the boat over a sand-bank at the entrance of the main channel of the Murray River. On an exposed part of this bank was standing a mixed flock of Caspian Terns and Silver Gulls. On my approach they flew off, leaving two large waders on the bank. Their size was almost that of a gull. In the light of the setting sun the birds seemed plain-coloured but when they took fright and flew off, identification was quite positive. The characteristics of the Black-tailed Godwit

were evident—the long straight beak, the broad white wing-stripe, the white band across the upper tail-coverts contrasting with the black tail and the legs trailing behind the tail. Their flight was straight and low, only a foot or so above the water.

What surprised me, however, was their remarkable tameness. I was pulling the boat and making a certain amount of splash and even then I was able to approach to within 15 feet of the birds. I had to kick water at them to make them fly so that I could identify them positively.

—DON REID, Wembley.

Lamprey Attacking Australian Salmon.—In view of the paucity of data concerning the feeding habits of the lamprey (*Geotria australis*) during its marine phase it is of value to place on record any casual observations which might contribute to the building up of a stock of facts on the subject.

While holidaying at Albany in February, 1946 I was fishing with my father off the end of the Deepwater Jetty. We noticed a large fish swimming near the surface. Whilst my father was burleying it up with pieces of weedy whiting I baited a heavy line with a live weedy whiting and threw it in. The large fish struck very sharply and after a spirited fight allowed itself to be hauled close enough to be gidgied and landed. It proved to be an Australian Salmon (*Arripis trutta*), which weighed 19lb. 2oz. Attached to the left side of the salmon, about one inch forward of the vent and about half-an-inch above the mid ventral line, was a greenish-grey lamprey. It was about as thick as a large thumb and about 15 inches in length when stretched out but seemed to shrink to about 12 inches when dislodged from the salmon. One of the bystanders stamped his heel on the lamprey and I then threw it back into the sea—it felt very slimy when I was handling it. The lamprey left an oval-shaped sear of red flesh which stood out very starkly on the salmon's side.

—W. H. BUTLER, Mt. Lawley.

Drowning Fatalities among Kookaburras.—Why do so many Kookaburras (*Dacelo gigas*) lose their lives by drowning? Over the last twenty-five years I have been amazed at the number of Kookaburras which lose their lives in this way. When I was in the Barlee Range I noticed many instances of the Blue-winged species (*D. leachii*) dying in the big stock tanks which hold from 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of water. When I first came to Coolup I built a large circular trough which held some 3,000 gallons and was about two feet deep. In the first summer numerous Kookaburras lost their lives and yet in recent years there has been not one case of drowning in this trough. At the end of last year I put down two more troughs of a smaller size, about 700 gallons each, in a scrub paddock where no water was found in the summer time. Over the last